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UNCLASSIFIED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 04 ZAGREB 00082

SIPDIS

AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY BEIJING  
AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
USEC BRUSSELS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 04 ZAGREB 000082

VIENNA FOR BOSNIA  
WARSAW FOR AMB. ALBRIGHT'S PARTY  
E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: [PHUM](#) [PREF](#) [EAID](#) [MOPS](#) [HR](#) [PREF](#) [EAID](#) [MOPS](#) [HR](#) [PREF](#) [EAID](#) [MOPS](#) [HR](#) [PREF](#) [EAID](#) [MOPS](#) [HR](#) [BK](#)  
SUBJECT: TSFROL: UNPROFOR FORCE COMMANDER GEN. COT'S  
JAN 5 BRIEFING FOR AMBASSADOR ALBRIGHT

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SUMMARY  
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1. IN A JAN 5 ZAGREB BRIEFING CHAIRED BY UNSYG SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE AKASHI, UNPROFOR FORCE COMMANDER GENERAL COT BRIEFED AMBASSADORS ALBRIGHT AND GALBRAITH, ASSTSEC SHATTUCK, AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ALBRIGHT DELEGATION ON  
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THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND IN CROATIA AND BOSNIA. COT EMPHASIZED THAT WHILE PEACEKEEPING IS THE MANDATE IN CROATIA, PROTECTION OF HUMANITARIAN AID OPERATIONS IS THE TASK IN B-H. WHILE THERE IS AT LEAST A TEMPORARY CEASEFIRE WORKING IN CROATIA, GENERAL WARFARE AND TARGETING OF HUMANITARIAN AID CONVOYS IN B-H CONTINUE UNABATED. AMB. ALBRIGHT STRESSED THE NEED TO KEEP BOTH DISCUSSION OF UNPROFOR AND CRITICISM OF UN RESOLUTIONS AFFECTING ITS OPERATIONS WITHIN "THE BOSOM OF THE FAMILY," AND OUT OF PUBLIC FORA.

END SUMMARY.

2. AFTER A BRIEF INTRODUCTION FROM AKASHI AND A SHORT PRESENTATION ON UNPROFOR CIVIL AND HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS PROJECTS, GENERAL COT OPENED THE FLOOR TO QUESTIONS. AMB. ALBRIGHT ASKED FOR AN ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT COMBAT LEVELS IN CROATIA AND BOSNIA AND THEIR EFFECT ON PEACE PROSPECTS AND HUMANITARIAN AID OPERATIONS.

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CROATIA  
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3. COT SAID THAT PEACEKEEPING IS THE UNPROFOR MANDATE IN CROATIA. SINCE DECEMBER 23 THERE HAD BEEN A GENERALLY-RESPECTED, UNPROFOR-BROKERED PROVISIONAL CEASEFIRE BETWEEN CROATIAN AND KRAJINA SERB FORCES. UNPROFOR IS WORKING TO PERSUADE THE SIDES TO EXTEND THE CEASEFIRE BEYOND ITS CURRENT JAN 15 TERMINATION DATE. THIS PERIOD OF RELATIVE STABILITY MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH UNPROFOR  
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EFFORTS IS "THE SORT OF GOOD NEWS NOT OFTEN REPORTED ON CNN," COT ADDED.

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BOSNIA  
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4. COT SAID UNPROFOR'S MANDATE TO PROTECT HUMANITARIAN AID OPERATIONS IN BOSNIA WAS SEVERELY HAMPERED BY THE HIGHLY DANGEROUS SITUATION ON THE GROUND, ESPECIALLY IN CENTRAL BOSNIA. BOTH THE GENERAL LEVEL OF COMBAT AND TARGETING OF HUMANITARIAN CONVOYS WERE INCREASING. COT

PARTICULARLY NOTED THE RECENT HEAVY FIGHTING IN THE VITEZ AREA. AT PRESENT, SERB FORCES THERE HAD BECOME "INTERESTED SPECTATORS" TO THE RAGING CONFLICT BETWEEN BOSNIAN CROAT (HVO) AND MAINLY MUSLIM GOVERNMENT FORCES, BUT COT PREDICTED NEW SERB OFFENSIVES SOON.

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ACTION IO-16

INFO	LOG-00	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	C-01	OASY-00	EAP-01
	EB-01	EUR-01	OIGO-01	HA-09	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00
	L-01	ADS-00	NSAE-00	OIC-02	PA-01	PM-01	PRS-01
	P-01	RP-10	SIL-00	SP-00	SR-00	SSO-00	SS-00
	STR-01	TRSE-00	USIE-00	RPE-01	SNIS-00	NISC-02	/054W
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O 071604Z JAN 94  
FM AMEMBASSY ZAGREB  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0431  
INFO WHITE HOUSE WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
HQ JTF PP NAPLES IT//CA/POLAD//  
JOINT STAFF WASHDC//J5-PMA/J2I//  
SECDEF WASHDC//ISA/ISP//  
USEUCOM VAHINGEN GE//ECJ3/ECJ4/ECJ5/ECPOLAD//  
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE//ECJ3/ECJ4/ECJ5//  
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE//J3/J4/J5/POLAD//  
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK//N2/N22//  
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
COM SIXTHFLT//N2//  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
USMISSION USNATO  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
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15. A/S SHATTUCK ASKED COT TO CHARACTERIZE UNPROFOR TACTICS FOR PROTECTING AID OPERATIONS IN BOSNIA, PARTICULARLY UNPROFOR'S VIEW ON WHETHER A MORE "RIGOROUS" POSTURE IN DEFENDING RELIEF FLOWS WOULD BE WISE. COT RESPONDED THAT UNPROFOR AND UNHCR OPERATIONS ARE "WHOLLY INTERTWINED," DESPITE UNHCR'S "TRADITIONAL PHILOSOPHY OF AVOIDING PEOPLE IN KHAKI." COT RESISTED ANY IMPLICATION THAT UNPROFOR WAS LESS THAN RIGOROUS IN ITS RELIEF

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PROTECTION EFFORTS. HE NOTED THAT A FRENCH UNPROFOR SOLDIER IN SARAJEVO HAD RECENTLY BEEN WOUNDED, AND POSSIBLY PARALYZED, WHEN HE DROVE A UNHCR RELIEF DELIVERY INTO A SECTOR CONSIDERED TOO DANGEROUS FOR UNHCR DRIVERS. UNPROFOR REGULARLY MAKES DIRECT DELIVERIES INTO SUCH AREAS OF SARAJEVO, AS WELL AS MANY OF THE MOST DANGEROUS ZONES IN CENTRAL BOSNIA.

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SARAJEVO  
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16. AMB. ALBRIGHT ASKED COT FOR HIS ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION IN SARAJEVO. COT RESPONDED THAT UNHCR COULD OFFER A MORE GENERAL BRIEFING, BUT HE COULD ADDRESS THE MILITARY ENVIRONMENT. COT OBSERVED THAT THE FIGHTING IN SARAJEVO IS TERRIBLE, BUT DISTRIBUTION THERE OF HUMANITARIAN AID WAS, IN MANY WAYS, THE BEST IN BOSNIA. HE FURTHER STRESSED THAT SOME HIGHLY VISIBLE ASPECTS OF THE SIEGE, NAMELY THE CONSTANT SERB ARTILLERY AND SNIPER FIRE, MAY OBSCURE THE REAL MILITARY EQUATION. APOLOGIZING FOR ENGAGING IN "A MACABRE ARITHMETIC," COT STRESSED THAT THE NUMBER OF KILLED AND WOUNDED IN SARAJEVO WAS GENERALLY LOWER THAN WHAT MIGHT BE ASSUMED ON THE BASIS OF THE DAILY COUNT OF ARTILLERY IMPACTS. MOREOVER, ESPECIALLY HEAVY SERB ARTILLERY BARRAGES IN RECENT DAYS WERE IN PART RESPONSES TO INCREASINGLY STRONG INFANTRY CHALLENGES BY BOSNIAN GOVERNMENT FORCES IN THE MOUNT ZUK AREA OF THE CITY AND ELSEWHERE.

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ATROCITIES  
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17. AMB. ALBRIGHT AND A/S SHATTUCK BOTH STRESSED THE DELEGATION'S CONCERN THAT UNPROFOR TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE IN KEEPING THE INTERNATIONAL WAR CRIMES COMMISSION AND OTHER BODIES INFORMED ABOUT ATROCITIES IN CROATIA AND BOSNIA. COT NOTED THAT THE RECENT MASSACRES IN THE MEDAK POCKET (IN CROATIA) AT STUPNI DOL (IN CENTRAL B-H) HAD BEEN THOROUGHLY DOCUMENTED BY UNPROFOR MILITARY AND CIVILIAN POLICE ELEMENTS AND REPORTED TO THE COMMISSION AND OTHER APPROPRIATE ENTITIES. HE THEN OPINED, IN PASSIONATE TERMS, THAT "ALTHOUGH WE IN UNPROFOR ARE NOT ALWAYS SURE WHY WE ARE STILL HERE, WE DO KNOW THAT, WERE WE NOT HERE AS WITNESSES, THERE WOULD BE MANY MORE ATROCITIES." REFERRING LATER TO THIS POINT, AMB. ALBRIGHT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT UNPROFOR'S PRESENCE MUST INDEED HAVE PREVENTED

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	STR-01	TRSE-00	USIE-00	RPE-01	SNIS-00	NISC-02	/054W
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O 071604Z JAN 94  
FM AMEMBASSY ZAGREB  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0432  
INFO WHITE HOUSE WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
HQ JTF PP NAPLES IT//CA/POLAD//  
JOINT STAFF WASHDC//J5-PMA/J21//  
SECDEF WASHDC//ISA/ISP//  
USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE//ECJ3/ECJ4/ECJ5/ECPOLAD//  
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COUNTLESS ADDITIONAL ATROCITIES.

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RESOLUTIONS  
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18. IN A CONCLUDING DISCUSSION, AMBASSADOR ALBRIGHT  
REFLECTED ON THE EXTRAORDINARY LEVEL OF ACTIVITY IN THE  
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UN SECURITY COUNCIL IN THE PAST TWO YEARS, NOTING THAT  
MORE RESOLUTIONS HAD PASSED THERE IN THAT TIME THAN IN  
THE INSTITUTION'S ENTIRE PREVIOUS HISTORY. ONE REASON  
WAS SIMPLY THAT IT WAS EASIER IN A POST-COLD WAR  
ENVIRONMENT TO PASS RESOLUTIONS. BEYOND THIS FACT,  
HOWEVER, THERE WERE EXTREMELY HIGH EXPECTATIONS FOR UN  
PEACEKEEPING IN THE WAKE OF THE COLD WAR. SHE WENT ON TO  
OBSERVE THAT GENERAL COT HAD SOMETIMES CRITICIZED THE  
COUNCIL'S RESOLUTIONS IN THEIR APPLICATION TO THE FORMER  
YUGOSLAVIA, AND ASKED IF HE COULD ELABORATE ON HIS  
PUBLICLY-STATED VIEWS.

19. COT SAID THAT, AS A SOLDIER, HE WAS ACCUSTOMED TO  
EXPRESSING HIMSELF IN DIRECT AND SIMPLE FASHION. PLANS  
CONCEIVED UNDER SOME UN RESOLUTIONS SEEMED TO HIM  
"INCONCRETE." HE CALLED THE ORIGINAL RESOLUTION AND  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VANCE PLAN FOR CROATIA "A SWINDLE,"  
IN THE SENSE THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAD NEVER  
MADE AVAILABLE THE FORCES AND AUTHORITY TO ACCOMPLISH  
THE MISSION. WALKING TO A THEATER MAP ON THE CONFERENCE  
ROOM WALL, COT POINTED OUT THAT HE HAD HAD TO "SCRAPE UP  
EVERY SOLDIER HE COULD LOCATE IN CROATIA AND B-H COMMAND"  
TO STEM AN AUTUMN OUTBREAK OF FIGHTING BETWEEN CROATS AND  
KRAJINA SERBS IN CROATIA. SUCH A SCRAMBLE POINTED UP THE  
WEAKNESSES OF UNPROFOR ASSETS, AND WAS A HUMILIATING  
EXERCISE FOR A GENERAL IN COMMAND OF INTERNATIONALLY-  
SUPPORTED PEACEKEEPING FORCES. OPERATIONAL LIMITATIONS  
ON UNPROFOR IN BOSNIA MADE THE UN'S PROTECTION EFFORT  
THERE ANOTHER "SWINDLE," COT SAID. OF THE 7,500  
ADDITIONAL TROOPS CALLED FOR TO IMPLEMENT "SAFE AREAS,"  
ONLY 2,000 HAD BEEN FORTHCOMING.

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10. AMB. ALBRIGHT RESPONDED THAT SHE UNDERSTOOD THESE  
FRUSTRATIONS, AND THAT THE UN NOW FINDS ITSELF WORKING IN  
"A NEURALGIC TIME" IN TRYING TO MAINTAIN PEACEKEEPING  
OPERATIONS AS PUBLIC CONCERN ABOUT THE POLITICAL, FISCAL,  
AND HUMAN COSTS OF SUCH OPERATIONS INCREASES IN MANY  
NATIONS, INCLUDING THE UN  
ITED STATES. EMPHASIZING THE  
NECESSITY OF LEARNING FROM MISTAKES, AMB. ALBRIGHT SAID  
SHE WAS NONETHELESS TROUBLED WHEN CRITICISMS OF THE UN BY

OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE INSTITUTION APPEARED IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS. THE SECURITY COUNCIL MAY NEED TO LOOK EVEN MORE REALISTICALLY AT FUTURE RESOLUTIONS, BUT COMMANDERS IN THE FIELD SHOULD ADDRESS THEIR CONCERNS FIRST "IN THE BOSOM OF THE FAMILY" AT THE UN, AND NOT IN PUBLIC FORA. GENERAL COT DID NOT RESPOND. IN CONCLUSION, BOTH AMBASSADORS GALBRAITH AND ALBRIGHT EMPHASIZED THEIR APPRECIATION FOR THE COMMITMENT AND COURAGE OF UNPROFOR

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PEOPLE IN THE FIELD.

11. THIS MESSAGE HAS BEEN CLEARED BY AMB. ALBRIGHT.

GALBRAITH

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